

Patrick Barron
20 McMullan Farm Lane
West Chester, PA 19382

January 17, 2002

AG John Ashcroft
US Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20530-0001

Dear Mr. Ashcroft,

As a concerned citizen of this great nation, I am writing to give my support to the settlement between Microsoft and the Justice Department. This case has been in litigation for three years now. It is time to bring closure to this case, since there is no monopoly to begin with. Microsoft just develops better products than its competitors.

However, I feel that the provisions of the settlement are both fair and reasonable. For instance, Microsoft has agreed to allow computer makers to remove the means by which consumers access various features of Windows, especially sophisticated software like Microsoft's Internet Explorer web browser, Windows Media Player, and Windows Messenger. They can then replace them with similar software like Netscape and AOL IM.

Furthermore, Microsoft has agreed not to retaliate against computer makers who ship software that competes with anything in its Windows operating system. I ask that the government stop continued legal action against Microsoft.

Sincerely,



Patrick Barron

Cc: Sen. Santorum